



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: December 24, 2023, around 8:00 p.m.
Incident: 2023-1926363
Location: 31st Avenue and Thomas Road
Victim: Young female, school-aged, deceased
Suspect: Sophia Simmons, 38-year-old female, MCSO Booking# G067650

A Young Child Found Deceased in West Phoenix; Mother Arrested

(December 26, 2023) Phoenix police detectives are investigating the homicide of a young female found in a dumpster. The mother is in custody after investigators received a tip that helped link the child to the mother.

On December 24, 2023, around 8 p.m., Phoenix police officers responded to the area of 31st Avenue and Thomas Road regarding a body that was found in a dumpster by a business. When officers arrived, they found the remains of a young female. Homicide detectives responded to look for evidence and speak to witnesses.

On December 25, detectives received a tip stating 38-year-old Sophia Simmons had disposed the body of her daughter in a dumpster. The tipster was told the young child possibly died from injuries stemming from an assault by Simmons.

Detectives located Simmons' residence in Phoenix and after securing a warrant they found evidence of someone attempting to clean a crime scene. Simmons' was not home at the time but detectives quickly learned she was on the I-10 heading back to Arizona. She was located and detained by detectives in Tonopah, Arizona.

Simmons' was later booked on multiple felony charges which include First Degree Murder, Child Abuse, and Tampering with Physical Evidence. The investigation remains active as detectives await the findings of post-mortem examination by the Office of the Medical Examiner.

Sergeant Phil Krynsky
Public Affairs Bureau